Claims

1. A character recognition method for accurately constructing a result string from a plurality of result sets generated by processing an input string, each result set comprising at least one candidate character with an associated confidence indication, the method comprising the steps of:

selecting a plurality of character types;

for each selected character type, creating a candidate string by concatenating a candidate character of the selected character type from each result set;

for each created candidate string, combining the associated confidence indication for each concatenated candidate character to form a corresponding combined confidence indication; and

selecting as the result string the created candidate string with a most favorable corresponding combined confidence indication.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein:

each confidence indication is numeric; and

the most favorable corresponding combined confidence indication has a greatest combined numeric value.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein the combined numeric value is a weighted average.

4. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of: if there is no candidate character in a result set for a character type, extracting a substitute candidate character of a different character type and ascribing a substitute associated confidence indication for the substitute candidate character.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein at least one of the selected character types includes a plurality of subset character types.

6. The method of claim 5 wherein the at least one of the selected character types further includes a pattern for positioning the candidate characters of the plurality of subset character types in the corresponding created candidate string.